INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infection, primarily in the lungs (a pneumonia), caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It is spread usually from person to person by breathing infected air during close contact. In the urban area where awareness about TB is more as people are regularly in touch with TB related propaganda, advertisement, information through Television, Cinema etc. Again, literacy is more in urban area than in rural area. Therefore, in order to assess the extent of awareness about TB, a survey was undertaken in rural of south Andhra Pradesh. For the experimental work a questionnaire was prepared and according to the data obtained they are categorized into three categories - Category - I, completely aware about TB (C-I), Category - II, Partially aware about TB (C-II), Category - III, completely unaware about TB (C-III). Again, extent of awareness about TB amongst different age groups was studied. The number of population (233) selected randomly in rural places of south Andhra Pradesh and survey was performed with the help of carefully designed questionnaire. According to age group, it has been found that the extent of awareness about TB was more in the age group between 25 to 40 years than any other age group.

Key words: Tuberculosis, Category, Awareness, Propaganda.
the people a survey was performed in the rural area of south Andhra Pradesh.

**Methodology**

For the experimental work questionnaire were prepared and it was distributed to the peoples of that area. According to answers they were divided into three categories (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Criteria for extent of awareness amongst people about TB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category-I (C-I)</td>
<td>Fully aware – Literate and well known about TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category-II (C-II)</td>
<td>Partially aware – Literate but incomplete knowledge of TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category-III (C-III)</td>
<td>Completely unaware – Illiterate and unknown about TB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Leaflets were made including all seven questions. The number of population (233) selected randomly in that place and survey was performed with the help of carefully designed questionnaire. According to age group, it has been found that the extent of awareness about TB was more in the age
group between 25 to 40 years than any other age group. At the end of the project, feedback (leaflets) was collected from the people and answer of each question was calculated in percentage basis (Fig. 1 to Fig.7).

CONCLUSION

From the present study it has been concluded that about one fourth of population surveyed were fully aware about TB. However, a large percentage of population is only partially aware about the disease. It has been observed that the large number of people from age group of 25-40 years is very much aware about the TB infection, causes as well as ways to avoid this disease. This is very much encouraging finding and will motivate all who has been involved on the war against TB. The category-II people are not completely aware about TB, so that this group is more prone to catch TB. Therefore, it is necessary to provide better knowledge about TB, to this category. Category-III people are completely unaware about TB, may be because of their illiteracy, inadequate knowledge about TB to this category.

Thus, this survey is useful tool for taking up some measures in the right direction for spreading awareness to every corner of the society particularly in rural areas with the help of primary health center’s and community in the region.

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